

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

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Club Mailing Address
Augusta Coin Club
P.O. Box 2084
Evans, GA 30809
Web site:
www.augustacoinclub.org

Special Duties
Webmaster: Robert Sanborn
Newsletter editor, Arno Safran
E-mail: arnosafran@comcast.net
Bourse Chairman, Steven Nix
Auction: Burles Johnson
Bids Recorder, Tommy Rhoden

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THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2025

Our next get together is a dinner meeting on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025, early arrivals 6:00 PM

Club Meeting Calendar for 2025

Jan. 16	May 15	Sep. 18
Feb. 20	June 19	Oct. 16
Mar. 20	July 17	Nov. 20
Apr. 17	Aug. 21	Dec. 18

Collecting Cheerful designed Nickels of the Past



An 1866 Shield nickel with rays graded MS-64 by PCGS
[Magnify page to 150% to view coin's details more clearly.]

The last time the half-dime was made in the millions was in 1862 when 1,492,000 were struck. By then, the Civil war was now in its second year and many citizens began to hoard silver coinage or have them melted for profit with the result that by 1864 small size U.S. denomination coinage were beginning to disappear, so later in the year, both the Indian Head cent, and the newly created two-cent copper piece were now struck in bronze, but even that still wasn't enough, so in 1865, a copper nickel three-cent piece, the size of a dime was created. In 1866 our first copper five-cent nickel coinage was created like the coin shown above. These new coin types helped stimulate our coinage program when it came to food and other highly needed items. Back then; prices were far lower than they became during the late 20th century, let alone the current 21st century where even a silver dollar cannot buy anything. **All of the new smaller valued coinage was created by our fourth Chief engraver, James Barton Longacre** and these coins were devoured by the public along with plenty uncirculated ones that still exist for collectors to acquire. As a type, the 1866 five-cent Shield nickel shown above is quite original yet many didn't think the coin was particularly attractive at the time, although the current writer considers it to be a charming little masterpiece because of the rays that appear on the reverse. Alas, due to striking problems, in mid 1867, the rays had to be removed for the coin to strike up effectively.



Collecting Interesting Nickels from the Past, (continued)



An 1870 Shield nickel graded MS-64 by NGC
[Magnify page to 150% to view coin's details more clearly.]

From 1866 thru 1876, the Shield Nickel was struck in high numbers and as a result isn't expensive in grades up to MS-63. By MS-64 they begin to increase price so the writer was fortunate to acquire the attractive example shown directly above on line in 2018 at a much lower price than it is in 2025. Enlarged to 150%, the design type becomes much clearer to the viewer and why the numismatic critics consider Longacre's design type inferior to those that followed boggles the mind, at least to this collector. The obverse is especially interesting with leaves surrounding the large shield which almost reminds one of a harp over flowers rather than a shield. The reverse is simple and direct with the numeral 5 centered between the 13 stars surrounded by the legend, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA with the word, CENTS below.



An 1873 closed 3 and open 3 in the date side by side
[Magnify page to 150% to view coin's details more clearly.]

One of the enjoyable factors of collecting obsolete coins is discovering unusual changes that were made. The reader is advised to enlarge the page to at least 150% to better see the subtle change between **the closed 3** at left and **the open 3** at right. The reason for the alteration was due to the fact that **the closed 3 looked closer to an 8 than a 3** and that confused some of the public which is why the revision was made. **From 1866 thru 1876**, the Shield nickels turned out to be an enormous success as they circulated heavily and are more easily acquired than the 1877 and '78 which were struck in small numbers as proofs only. These were followed by the 1879, '80 and '81 which had far smaller mintages. The final 1882 and 1883 nickels had sufficient mintages and are still attainable at a reasonable price.

(Continued on page 2, column)

The Liberty Head V Nickels of Charles Barber



An 1883 triple transitional dates of five-cent nickels
From Left to Right: the Shield nickel followed by
Liberty "V" nickel without cents and by "the V" nickel with cents
[Magnify page to 150% to view coin's details more clearly.]

The Shield nickel was last struck in the beginning of 1883 but was soon replaced by the Liberty Head type created by Charles Barber who was serving as our sixth Chief Engraver.

Barber created a classical stylized Miss Liberty facing left surrounded by 13 stars on the obverse with the date beneath. On the reverse was a large wreath with the letter "V", the Roman five at its center and above the tiny motto, **IN GOD WE TRUST** at the bottom of the coin. While attractive, the actual word, **"cents"** did not appear on the coin art first, and since the new coin type resembled the **\$5.00 gold Liberty Head half-eagle** a few crafty individuals decided to gold-plate Barber's new Liberty Head type and sell it as a **\$5.00 half-eagle gold piece instead of a 5c coin**. For a short period, these fellows got away with it before the treasury caught hold of them. As a result, Barber was asked to redo the reverse slightly and this time added the word, **"cents"** underneath the wreath while squeezing the motto **IN GOD WE TRUST** above the wreath which appears on the third nickel coin, thus ending the fraudulent attempts by these cagy individuals.



An 1885 Liberty Head nickel graded MS-62 by PCGS
[Magnify page to 150% to view coin's details more clearly.]

Barber's Liberty Head nickels were officially struck from 1883 thru 1912, a total of 30 years. [The five 1813 proof issues were another matter to be explained later in this article.] During this period, there were only three scarce dates; **the 1885, the key date shown directly above which is quite expensive**; followed in 1886, a slightly lesser expensive issue but still costly, and finally, in 1912, the final year of the type when all three Mints struck the nickel denomination for the first time due to the increased population in the western states. Thus, the San Francisco and Denver Mints were added to the list in 1912.

The author acquired the 1885 Liberty Head *on line* back in January 2019 from a responsible dealership and while the coin is graded only MS-62, it is attractive as shown above. It cost plenty, but you only live once and he had saved up enough cash to acquire at the time and is glad he did since it is priced much higher now. He also acquired the 1886 "V" nickel but that was back in 1991 at a major coin show. It cost him 1/5th of what it sells for today. The 1912-S and 1912-D he acquired back in 1992 via a telephone call to David Lawrence Coins and both has since tripled in value.



A 1900 Liberty Head nickel graded MS-64 by PCGS
[Magnify page to 150% to view coin's details more clearly.]

The author acquired this lovely 1900 turn of the century Barber Liberty head nickel away back in **1979** "raw" long before professional grading service arrived and since it was a very common date with a mintage of 27,253,733, it still cost plenty even back then for two reasons, 1) the dealer over-graded it and 2) The writer was still a novice collector who was slowly learning numismatics. Believe it or not--in preparing this newsletter--he was shocked to learn that this coin is worth today only half what the dealer charged him 46 years ago. "C'est de la Vis!" While he may have been taken by this particular dealer who is no longer with us, the writer believes the coin should have been certified MS-65 due to its high quality appearance.



The 1912-S & D Barber liberty Head nickels
[Magnify page to 150% to view coin's details more clearly.]

From 1866 thru 1911, the five-cent nickel was only struck at the Philadelphia Mint, but in 1912, the coin was also struck at the San Francisco Mint with a mintage of only 238,000 and the Denver Mint which recently opened in 1906 with a larger mintage of 8,474,000. Both are more expensive to acquire than the Philadelphia mint issues with the San Francisco mint, the second highest after the 1885 issue.



One of the five Proof 1913 nickels
[Magnify page to 150% to view coin's details more clearly.]

Technically, the era of the Barber Liberty Head nickels had come to an end in **1912** with the producing of the coin for the last time at all three mints, but in **1913**, five examples of the Liberty Head nickel were secretly coined as proofs at the Philadelphia Mint by clandestine workers for Samuel Brown who was a mint employee at the time. None of these five nickels are considered a regular issue as it is long evident that Brown who was a shrewd operator a few years later first requested to pay \$5.00 if a citizen found others, then later on, began showing off the five coins first at a Chicago coin club meeting and later at an ANA convention in 1920. He never got charged! Today, four of the five coins generationally are sold either directly or at a major auction.

The Buffalo Nickels of James Earle Frasier



The two subtypes of the Buffalo nickels of 1913
[Magnify page to 150% to view coinage details more clearly.]

As with the two previous five-cent nickel design types going back to 1866, where the first year or second years of each series of each coin had to be slightly redone, in 1913, soon after the coin at left was struck, critics explained that the Bison standing on the mound of the reverse were a danger to the coin's appearance since the words, FINE CENTS underneath the mound on the reverse would be erased soon after a short period of the coin's use. So, in the type 2 versions under the mound, the Bison's feet were raised slightly and thinned accordingly leaving room for the words FIVE CENTS to appear encased between the mound (which is called an effigy) and the lower rim of the coin thereby allowing the wording to remain more clearly. Oddly, the date on the obverse was left unchanged.

During this period the three Mints were the Philadelphia, San Francisco and the Denver Mint which opened its doors in 1906. As usual, the Philadelphia Mint struck the most coins of the three Mints then in operation so, the examples of the newly made 1913 nickels is the least costly of the three.



A 1917 Indian Head/ Buffalo nickel graded MS-65 by PCGS
[Magnify page to 150% to view coin's details more clearly.]

By 1917 everything was in fine order. That year, the Philadelphia Mint struck 51,424,019 Buffalo nickels so it is considered a fairly common date. The coin shown is also extremely well struck with attractive toning and has lots of eye appeal, so common date or not, it is desirable artistically.

During this period both the San Francisco and Denver Mints also produced these coins but in smaller numbers and they circulated heavily leaving less uncirculated specimens for collectors to acquire. The foregoing said, there are some Philadelphia Mint dates that are more difficult to acquire and these are the 1918, 1921 and 1924 issues. In 1922, no Indian head Buffalo nickels were struck at all. And in 1931, no nickels were coined at either the Philadelphia Mint or the Denver Mint, so the collector has to acquire the 1931-S which is more expensive but still quite affordable graded MS-63 in 2025



A 1931-S Indian Head/ Buffalo nickel graded MS-64
Magnify page to 150% to view coin's details more clearly.]

One of the more desirous coins of the series is the 1931-S since none were struck at the Philadelphia or Denver mints that year.

The Changeover of the Nickels types of 1938



**The 1938-D Buffalo nickel at left and
The 1938-D Jefferson nickel at right**
[Magnify page to 150% to view coin's details more clearly.]

Transitional dates represent two different coin types of the same denomination struck in the same year. Most Jefferson nickels are fairly common but during the first thirty years the steps on Monticello were seldom sharp, so locating full steps on the reverses are scarce to rare on most Jefferson nickels struck prior to the 21st century.



A 1944-P Wartime Jefferson nickel grading MS-63
[Magnify page to 150% to view coin's details more clearly.]

You won't be able to observe this example clearly without enlarging the page to 150%. During WWII, the United States government needed nickel for the war effort so they used **copper, silver and manganese** on the Jefferson nickel instead. To make the public aware of the metallic changeover, the letters P, D & S representing the three Mints were enlarged and placed atop Monticello on the reverse so the letter P appeared on a United States coin for the first time beginning on the nickels of 1942.



A 1950-D Jefferson nickel slightly off color
The tiny mint-mark, D appears on the extreme right of the reverse.
Magnify page to 150% to view coin's details more clearly.]

During the early years the Jefferson nickel was being produced the 1950-D nickel was considered a scarce coin due to its far lower mintage of 2,630,030 compared with the previous Denver mint issues and during the 1970s it was being advanced as a key date which it really wasn't. For some reason the photo taken of this coin is somewhat off line but if the reader will enlarge the page to 150% the coin will appear far clearer to the reader as the steps on the reverse, while not full will still appear sharper as other parts of both sides of the coin. When the nickel was first created back in 1866, it could purchase many goods. As late as 1950, it could still buy a fare for a bus, trolley or subway, also an ice cream cone, a glass of Coca Cola at a large candy bar. Today the same candy bar sells for \$1.75 at local Super-Markets

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC. MINUTES OF MEETING November 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by President, Shelby Plooster. We had 41 members and 1 guest present.

The Secretary's Report:

The October 16, 2025 minutes were not read. A copy is kept on file.

The Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was sent by email from Stacey Plooster. We have \$11,212.84 deposited in the Club's checking account.

The Prize Winners:

The winner of the 50/50 raffle for \$65.00 was Clay Holland. Mike Edwards and Clay Holland each Won a 1 oz. Silver Eagle.

Our Fall Coin Show

Our upcoming Fall Coin Show is scheduled for Nov 21 (Friday) and Nov 22nd (Saturday) 2025. Steve Nix is our Bourse Chairman. As in the past, our Fall Coin Show will be held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located at the Grovetown a half-mile beyond Walmart off exit 190 of I-20. The dealers can set up Thursday night from 4 pm to 8 pm. Mr. Sammy Lucky will provide our postcards that we will be mailed. Thank you Mr. Lucky! Please sign up to help manage the front desk.

Show and Tells:

Everett Price displayed coin set displaying one cent through 50 cent coins.

Sheriff Smith displayed a 1997 Law Enforcement Commemorative given to him by past member Mike Peterson.

Clay Holland displayed coins of World War I. Mike Brill displayed a 1783 one Real which is a possible shipwreck coin.

Burles Johnson displayed a 2025 Bald Eagle of which is number 226 out of 2025.

The Program:

Arno Safran's program was on "Earlier Latin-American Coinage". He displayed a series of Latin American coins from several Spanish monarchs that were the first to be struck as milled coinage in Mexico, Central America and South America, many of them prior to and after the Revolutionary War with Great Britain. These coins would remain were legal tender thru 1857.

The major coinage displayed were the *half-Real*, the *Real* worth 121/2 cents, *the Dos reales or 25 cents, or "2 Bits", the 4 reales, a half-dollar and the most famous, 8 Reales or Peso. The first series of Latin American coins did not show any monarchs. Instead, it displayed the famed two pillars representing both*

the European world and New World (across the Atlantic). He followed by displaying paintings of the Spanish monarchs who would eventually appear on the coinage **beginning with King Ferdinand in the mid 1750s**, with the obverses of the coinage showing one monarch after the other thru the Napoleonic era of the early 19th century..

Arno explained that he acquired many of these coins during the 1990s because they were far cheaper than the U.S. coinage of the same period because they were far more common and that many of these Latin American coins were used in our nation's commerce while being priced far lower than the early U.S. design types in today's numismatic market.

President Shelby Plooster gave Arno a certificate for his fine program.

Old Business:

Perfect attendance has been suspended. Red Books from **Leaphart Coins** will be available, priced at a cost of \$12.00. Program givers will be awarded two Silver Eagles instead of a 1/10 oz. gold coin. Our annual dues is \$20.00. Please pay your dues. This was the outcome of our Board of Directors Meeting on February 18, 2025. Rent to use the Sunrise Grill was raised from 50 dollars a meeting to 200 dollars a meeting. Shelby stated you must be a paid member to win a door prize.

New Business:

Elections for offices of the Augusta Coin Club will be held in the December meeting Burles Johnson, our 1st Vice President, will provide us with a dinner at our next meeting.

Our annual dues for 2026 will be \$20. Juniors are free.

Upcoming Coin Shows:

Atlanta Monthly Show,	December 14, 2025
Marietta, Ga	
ANA Money Show,	February 26-28, 2026
Savannah, GS	
Myrtle Beach	December 12-13, 2025
Myrtle Beach, SC	

Our Monthly Club's Coin Auction:

Our first Vice President, Burles Johnson ran the auction (11 lots). Everette Price and President Shelby Plooster delivered the goods and Tommy Rhoden, our Second Vice President recorded the bids thereby moving the Auction along more quickly.

*Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway*

Collecting the Dollar coinage of the Spanish Kings



A 1789 Peso of King Charles the 3rd of Spain

For most numismatists, early U.S. dollars produced from 1794 thru 1803 are very expensive even in the lower grades, so when the author came across a dealer who specialized in obsolete foreign coinage especially the Latin-American section 18th century Pesos took the place of early U.S. dollars and found them very affordable even in the middle to higher grades, he decided to add them to his collection. Some early dated examples went back to King Charles the 3rd and later, his son, Charles the 4th that were the same size and weight as our early U.S. dollar coins struck in the last decade of the 18th century and early 19th century but sold for a fraction of what the U.S. dollars cost. One of them was the coin shown above displaying **King Charles III of Spain**. While he may not looked handsome, he nevertheless had lots of power and was a reasonably intellectual monarch compared to his lazy son, Charles IIII who would eventually replace him after he died. In each, the obverse displays the King while the reverse shows the two worlds, with the crown atop and the lions and castles for the reverse.



**King Charles the IIII of Spain on the obverse
With the same Coat of Arms on the reverse**

After King Charles III died, his near-du-well son, Charles the fourth allowed the work of his nation to be taken over by his wife and her lover to run the country. Both coins cost the writer a pittance compared with a 1799 Draped Bust dollar that he acquired earlier \$40 each compared with \$650 for the 1799 Draped Bust dollar, so he decided to collect other Latin American denominations as a result because they circulated in the early years of the first thirty years of the United States.. Below is a 1799 U.S. dollar.



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